

Names and Faces



Master Sgt. Ramon Roldan
Entitlements NCOIC

With each issue, the Air Reserve Personnel Center would like to introduce the members of the ARPC Team who serve our customers everyday.

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Photo by Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims

Records on the move

Members of the Air Reserve Personnel Center Health Services Individual Reserve Programs Directorate, Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Hancock and David Fisher, pack up individual mobilization augmentee and some participating individual ready reserve medical and dental records headed for Osan Air Base, Korea. See related story on Page 6.

ARPC announces O-6 promotions

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims
ARPC Public Affairs

DENVER – Air Reserve Personnel Center officials announced Dec. 20, the fiscal year 2006 Air Force Reserve Line and Non-Line Colonel Promotion Selection Board results that selected 287 officers for promotion.

A selection board convened at ARPC Oct. 17, 2005 to determine those officers qualified to assume the next higher grade.

Board members carefully considered the records of 1,784 Air Force Reserve officers in search of those most qualified.

The results of the FY06 board follow:
Selected Reserve selection statistics in-the-promotion zone:

- 118 line officers selected from 472

considered for a 25 percent select rate;

- Three chaplain officers selected from 12 considered for a 25 percent select rate;

- Three dental corps officers selected from 10 considered for a 30 percent select rate;

- Seven judge advocate general officers selected from 27 considered for a 26 percent select rate;

- Seven medical corps officers selected from 31 considered for a 23 percent select rate;

- Eight nurse corps officers selected from 42 considered for a 19 percent select rate;

- Three medical service corps officers selected from 13 considered for a 23 percent select rate; and,

- One biomedical sciences corps officer selected from 14 considered for a seven percent select rate.

See "Colonel board" Page 4

Editorial

Board secretariat provides update

By Col. Earl McCallum

Director, Reserve of the Air Force

Selection Board Secretariat



We have all heard how the future of the personnel business lies in personnel service delivery transformation. Considering the strict law and policy governing the promotion arena, one might expect very little transformation to fit our area. But here in the Reserve of the Air Force Selection Board Secretariat, we've made significant strides to transform and improve how we deliver first-class board support and services.

To add perspective, first let's review basic board characteristics affecting our transformation. The Selection Board Secretariat conducts approximately 90 promotion selection boards every year. These include AF Reserve mandatory and position vacancy officer promotion boards to the grades of major through colonel and mandatory Air National Guard boards for major and lieutenant colonel. The boards are broken out by competitive category.

The mandatory boards are further broken out by Selected Reserve and Other than-Selected-Reserve categories. Each board and its separate panels, by law, are composed of members who represent the diversity of the officers being considered.

Such factors include Air Force Specialty Code, reserve categories, race, ethnicity, gender, and aeronautical rating. Other issues that affect the process are eligibility criteria, promotion opportunity, Officer Selection Records issues, background and thought processes of the board members, the process that board members use to score each record, and producing an order of merit that determines who gets selected. How could you transform all of that?

Here's what we have done to streamline, automate, and create efficiency:

Streamlined Databases: Our staff of about 30, military and civilian, has developed and continues to use more than 100 databases to support board preparation and execution. We have hired a contractor to link these independent databases. This effort will cut redundant data update and query requirements.

Automated Letters to the Board: Each officer meeting a board may communicate with their board by letter. Every year, approximately 1,000 Reserve officers take advantage of this opportunity to provide information to the board. Remedy, the familiar case management system, has automated this process. The officer goes "online" and uses a "fill-in-the-blanks" screen to enter and format the letter, electronically sign the letter, and submit the letter to the board. Problems with format, authenticity, long mail time, wrong addresses, and readability have been eliminated. We also obtain a current e-mail address for the officer.

Web-based Counseling Requests: We've developed a tool to allow each officer, via the Web to quickly and easily schedule pre- and post-board counseling with our experts. This enables much quicker, more direct access to this critical customer service function.

Board member efficiency: Our promotion selection boards vary in size. When there are just a few officers being considered, the faster board members are forced to wait for the paper OSRs. We have developed a system that allows board members simultaneous OSR access via a computerized/database system that includes an electronic OSR, a scoring module and automated administrative processes. Board members have continuously commended this transformed process.

Change is exciting, when we can see such immediate value from our transformation.

We look forward to hearing what success you all have from your transformation efforts.

General Poulin is new AFRC vice commander

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. -- In a ceremony Dec. 20, Maj. Gen. Allan R. Poulin relinquished command of 10th Air Force to Maj. Gen. Richard C. Collins at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort

Worth, Texas, to become the Air Force Reserve Command vice commander. General Poulin replaces Maj. Gen. David E. Tanzi, who will retire in a ceremony here Jan. 11. As AFRC vice commander, General Poulin will serve full-time and oversee the day-to-day operations of the command and its headquarters. AFRC has about

75,000 reservists who train and deploy regularly. The command is composed of three numbered air forces divided into 36 wings, three flying groups, one space group and more than 600 subordinate units. In civilian life, General Poulin was an airline pilot flying international routes for a major U.S. carrier. (AFRC News Service)

Air Reserve Personnel

UPDATE

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Get service now

ARC personnel need a vPC-GR account

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims
ARPC Public Affairs

DENVER - As Personnel Service Delivery transformation takes hold of the personnel world, all members of the Air Reserve Component are asked to go online and create an account on the Air Reserve Personnel Center's virtual Personnel Center-Guard Reserve portal on the ARPC Web site.

The virtual Personnel Center-Guard Reserve portal is ARC members' access to virtual personnel service and enhances the traditional vMPF tools with which many Airmen are already familiar. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. This account lets ARC personnel conduct a variety of personnel transactions from anywhere in the world with Internet connections. Whether deployed, working at home station or at home, all personnel should be able to access secure personnel service. The process is relatively simple and can help speed up many personnel actions. To create an account, go to <https://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support/newaccount.asp>.

Fill out the electronic form to include the member's social security number and date of birth. Members will also have to include a valid e-mail address and phone number. The e-mail address will be used for service delivery and password management. People who don't have an e-mail address can establish one at: <https://www.gimail.af.mil/login.asp>

Many personnel use the self-help, "Frequently Asked Questions"



feature on the ARPC Web site to obtain the answers they need. This is a self-service system where Airmen search by category or keyword and find the answers they seek. If they are unable to find an answer via self-help, they can log into their account and e-mail a customer service representative. The frequency of new questions posed leads to new FAQs, as ARPC compiles data on the frequency of information seeking to keep the knowledgebase current.

On the ARPC Web site, ARC personnel can make address updates, find assignment information, learn about benefits and entitlements, or search career opportunities. The points management area helps members know how many points they have. Promotions help individuals know what they need to do to get ready for promotion boards. One of the busiest sections is retirements. Members can find out about what they need to do to retire and what is available to them when they do. People who seek alternate career fields can go to the retraining section and find out if they are eligible and how.

These are just a few items available to the ARC. One of the most recent processes added to the vPC-G/R is the ability to get a re-issue of the 20-year letter and/or a mortgage letter – both important documents for ARC Airmen. These letters are some of the most requested items from the retirement's office; now online, on request.

"Ten years ago I set up my first electronic banking account; I do everything that way now – never an error, always an audit trail, well documented – it's time now to give that to our Citizen Airmen for their personnel needs," said Dave Aldrich, Director, Personnel Services Delivery at ARPC.

As ARPC continues to transform personnel services, ARC members will be able to do more personnel actions without ever picking up a phone or driving to their local military personnel flight. All they have to do is log onto <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/default.asp>.

Hurting from injuries suffered while deployed overseas?

TSGLI may pay

By Joe Herbertson
HQ ARPC Directorate of Plans

The 2005 Supplemental Appropriations Act For Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Tsunami Relief, 2005, (Public Law 109-13) establishes an automatic traumatic injury protection rider provision to Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance, effective December 1, 2005.

This act also provides retroactive coverage back to Oct. 1, 2001 for members who suffered qualifying injuries while deployed outside the U.S. on orders in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom or while serving in a geographic location that qualified for the Combat Zone Tax Exclusion. No deploy-

ment restrictions apply for injuries incurred from Dec. 1, 2005 on. Members must be covered by SGLI to receive TSGLI and Line of Duty Determinations may restrict coverage (e.g. suicide attempts, self-inflicted injuries).

Coverage ranges from \$25K to \$100K depending on the severity of the injury. Some examples of qualifying traumatic injury include loss of sight, hand, foot, speech, hearing, thumb and index finger, and brain injuries that impair daily living. Loss of the use of limbs (paraplegia/quadruplegia) and burns are also specified.

Enrollment is automatic if enrolled in SGLI. The premium for TSGLI is \$1 per month. Members cannot elect to disenroll in this program while covered by SGLI.

Members cannot elect zero SGLI coverage and request TSGLI coverage. Further information is available at www.insurance.va.gov and the Traumatic Injury Protection Certification Form; GL.2005.261 is available at <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/forms/TSGLIForm.htm>

Reservists (Unit, Individual Mobilization Augmentees and Participating Individual Ready Reserve) who suffer these injuries and seek treatment at medical treatment facilities or through civilian health care must have their provider complete this form.

Once completed, the form must be faxed to ARPC/DPEE at (303) 676-6255, or DSN: 926-6255, ARPC/DPPE will fax the completed application to the Office of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance for payment of benefits after ARPC/SG certifies Part C of the form.

Reservists may call 1-800-525-0102 for general questions regarding this program.

By Tech. Sgt. Rob Mims
ARPC Public Affairs

ARPC automates 20-year and mortgage letters

The Air Reserve Personnel Center set

another transformation milestone with the self-service automation of the reissue 20-year and mortgage letters.

These letters are now available via the virtual Personnel Center Guard/Reserve portal.

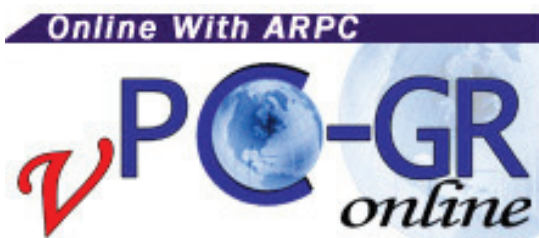
The original 20-year notification letter is issued approximately 120 days after the end of the Retention/Retirement year at the 20-year mark for Guard and Reserve Citizen Airmen. Once the data system audits reflect 20 years of satisfactory service, the notification letter is issued.

The new automated process enables retirees to replace their misplaced 20-year letter automatically by visiting the Virtual Personnel Center Guard Reserve Web site at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support.asp>.

"This is a huge step to give Airmen what they want from the 'big system' by web-enabling their request right to their own desktop," said Dave Aldrich, Director, Personnel Services Delivery at ARPC. "We self-service at the gas station, our banks, the post office; I believe Airmen expect they should do the same in getting their personnel support."

In addition to automating the 20-year letter, ARPC has also automated the Mortgage letter, which assists Reservists with information regarding their retired pay benefits for mortgage applications.

Reservists who are in the process of purchasing a new home and have their mortgage company requesting information regarding their Reserve retired pay, may now go online to <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/support.asp>, sign in and print out a verification of the amount of gross retired pay to be received.



dilla, Director of Systems Support in the Personnel Services Delivery Directorate. "This will provide Airmen the flexibility to access what they need via the vPC-GR when they need it, resulting in a far better service experience for our Airmen. We look forward to continually providing our customers self-service capabilities."

Automating these two letters will ultimately save thousands of man-hours spent preparing them manually.

"In this age of information literally at your fingertips, this is a good change for our customers to have easy access to these letters, said Jackie Bing, Director of Personnel Program Management whose directorates used to accomplish all the letters. "The process is more streamlined and they still have the option of contacting us if they have any questions," she said.

This process is another significant step toward Personnel Services Delivery Transformation. PSD represents a new way of doing business that will transform the Air Force personnel processes, organizations, and technology to provide a new personnel service delivery model that replaces many labor-intensive processes today.

The goal of PSD is to provide better customer service with 24 hour-a-day, 7 day-a-week accessibility for Airmen to conduct more personnel transactions via improved web-enabled tools and an enhanced Contact Center.

PSD is ultimately about supporting the war fighter with world-class personnel services while our Airmen stay on the job and aren't spending time visiting the military personnel flight.

Colonel board from Page 1

Selected Reserve selection statistics above-the-promotion zone:

- 95 line officers selected from 649 considered for a 15 percent select rate;
- Three chaplain officers selected from 20 considered for a 15 percent select rate;
- Two dental corps officers selected from 24 considered for a eight percent select rate;
- Three judge advocate general officers selected from 56 considered for a 5 percent select rate;
- Nine medical corps officers selected from 84 considered for an 11 percent select rate;
- 11 nurse corps officers selected from 81 considered for a 14 percent select rate;

- Three medical service corps officers selected from 22 considered for a 14 percent select rate; and,
- Five biomedical sciences corps officers selected from 36 considered for a 14 percent select rate.

Other than Selective Reserve selection statistics in-the-promotion zone:

- Four line officers selected from 61 considered for a seven percent select rate;
- One medical corps officer selected from eight considered for a 13 percent select rate; and,
- One biomedical sciences corps officer selected from two considered for a 50 percent select rate.
- There were no dental corps or nurse corps officers selected from those considered.
- There were no chaplain, judge advocate

general or medical service corps officers considered.

Other than Selective Reserve selection statistics above-the-promotion zone:

There were no line, dental corps, medical corps officers selected from those considered.

There were no judge advocate general, chaplain, nurse corps, medical service corps or biomedical sciences corps officers considered.

Promotion effective dates are based on the individual's line number. Increments will be posted on the ARPC Web site, <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil>, after Senate confirmation. For more information, call the promotion board secretariat specialists at (800) 525-0102, or e-mail them at arpc.dpbbdl@arpc.denver.af.mil.

New Air Force mission statement:

'... deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests - to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.'

By Master Sgt. Mitch Gettle
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- The realities of the world have changed dramatically since the creation of the Air Force in 1947 and continue to change almost daily.

With these changes in mind, Air Force leaders released a new mission statement Dec. 7 that defines the current and future direction of the Air Force.

"Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting and filled with a wide range of challenges," Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. T. Michael Moseley wrote in a joint Letter to Airmen. "Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise."

The mission statement defines the "where and what" the Air Force accomplishes on a daily basis:

The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver sovereign options for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests -- to fly and fight in Air, Space, and Cyberspace.

The statement includes two new concepts, "sovereign options" and "cyberspace," which the secretary and chief defined.

They said having sovereign options is the essence of being a superpower.

"Our task is to provide the president, the combatant commanders, and our nation with an array of options ... options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses," they said. "With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world."

The term cyberspace includes network security, data transmission and the sharing of information.

"We have quite a few of our Airmen dedicated to cyberspace ... from security awareness, making sure the networks can't be penetrated, as well as figuring out countermeasures," Secretary Wynne said. "The Air Force is a natural leader in the cyber world and we thought it would be best to recognize that talent."

Adversaries of the United States will use any method or venue necessary to contest America, and it is an Airman's calling to dominate air, space and cyberspace, the leaders said.

"If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts," they said. "If our enemies underestimate our resolve, then we will fly, fight, and destroy them."

Using past air power pioneers as examples of understanding the mission, they said, "The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do."

New rules to reinforce Guard, Reserve re-employment protections

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- The National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is lauding the Labor Department announcement issuing rules clarifying re-employment rights for citizen-soldiers. They said the Dec. 16 announcement is a major step forward for guardsmen, reservists and their civilian employers.

Labor Secretary Elaine Chao announced final rules interpreting the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Act that helps ensure job security for reserve-component members returning to civilian life from military duty. The rules were published Dec. 19, in the Federal Register.

Speaking at the National Press Club

here, Ms. Chao said this is the first time since the law's passage in 1994 that regulations have been developed to enforce it. The rules are particularly critical now, she said, when the United States has the largest group of mobilized guardsmen and reservists since World War II. Since 9-11, almost 530,000 reserve-component people have been mobilized, many for more than a year of duty.

The new rules, drafted in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format, explain how the USERRA law protects against discrimination and retaliation because of military service and prevents servicemembers from job setbacks from performing their military obligations. The law also ensures that guardsmen and reservists have ample time to report back to their civilian jobs after completing their military duty.

"Our citizen-soldiers put themselves in harm's way to defend our freedoms,

and now it's our turn to be there for them," Ms. Chao said. "These regulations will ensure that the seniority, promotion, health care, pensions and other benefits of our citizen-soldiers are protected when they return home to the jobs they left to serve our country."

Putting teeth behind the USERRA law benefits citizen soldiers as well as their employers, said Maj. Rob Palmer, a public affairs officer with the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve.

"Anything that makes it easier for Guard and Reserve members to work with their employers and understand their rights and responsibilities under the law is a benefit to everyone," he said.

With more than 50 percent of the military's manpower in the reserve components, employer support is critical to U.S. national security, Major Palmer said. Please visit the DOL Web site, at <http://www.dol.gov/vets/programs/userra/> to review information on USERRA.

IMA medical/dental records moving closer to customer

Article courtesy of Air Reserve Personnel Center Health Services Individual Reserve Programs Directorate

When people visit a medical or dental facility one of the most important pieces of information is the history obtained from their medical or dental records.

With individual mobilization augments and participating individual ready reserve members this has not always been possible because these records have been centralized at the Air Reserve Personnel Center, until now.

With no medical or dental history available to active duty treatment facilities, getting an annual Reserve Component Periodic Health Assessment completed was challenging.

Not having the records available at the point of service also meant that loose paperwork did not always get filed in the records. The plan to decentralize medical

and dental records to the point of service was developed and initiated two years ago with changes to AFI 41-210, Patient Administration Functions.

This decentralization supports the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs requirement of having outpatient medical records available at the point of service.

It also makes Individual Medical Readiness compliance statistics directly available to the wing leadership where responsibility for compliance rests.

ARPC Medical Operations is now in the final phase of the planning process and will begin the large scale decentralization of records in March.

To mirror the active duty, Air National Guard and Unit Reserve policy, IMA records will be sent to the medical facility servicing their unit of attachment. The exception will be members assigned to sister service installations and the PIRR as these records will continue to be centrally man-

aged. Active duty ownership of records will ultimately result in enhanced quality and reliability of the Periodic Health Assessment and subsequent enhanced visibility of medical readiness in the Air Force's Preventive Health Assessment/Individual Medical Readiness system.

Records were sent to three bases as part of a pilot program to validate the extensive planning that went into this project. The three bases, Buckley Air Force Base, Colo. Peterson AFB, Colo., and Osan Air Base, Korea, were selected based on proximity and size, respectively.

In order to minimize error and impact to the medical facilities, ARPC/SG staff worked closely with the Program Managers, the Base IMA Administrators and the medical facilities to validate the lists of IMAs attached to these bases.

With the project scheduled to be completed by Dec. 1, 2006, process evaluation is in place to ensure smooth transition and on time completion to benefit both the individual member and the providers at the medical facilities caring for the member.

For more information, view the frequently asked questions at <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/medical/faq.asp>

RESERVE PAY FOR 1 DRILL

EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2006

PAY GRADE	YEARS OF SERVICE														
	<2	2	3	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS															
O-10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	445.50	447.68	456.99	473.21
O-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	389.65	395.25	403.37	417.52
O-8	275.70	284.73	290.72	292.40	299.87	312.37	315.27	327.14	330.54	340.76	355.54	369.18	378.29	378.29	378.29
O-7	229.09	239.73	244.66	248.57	255.66	262.65	270.75	278.83	286.93	312.37	333.86	333.86	333.86	333.86	335.55
O-6	169.80	186.54	198.78	198.78	199.53	208.09	209.22	209.22	221.11	242.13	254.47	266.80	273.82	280.92	294.71
O-5	141.55	159.45	170.50	172.57	179.45	183.58	192.64	199.29	207.87	221.02	227.27	233.46	240.48	240.48	240.48
O-4	122.13	141.38	150.81	152.92	161.67	171.06	182.74	191.86	198.18	201.81	203.92	203.92	203.92	203.92	203.92
O-3	107.38	121.73	131.39	143.25	150.10	157.63	162.51	170.53	174.69	174.69	174.69	174.69	174.69	174.69	174.69
O-2	92.77	105.67	121.70	125.81	128.40	128.40	128.40	128.40	128.40	128.40	128.40	128.40	128.40	128.40	128.40
O-1	80.54	83.82	101.32	101.32	101.32	101.32	101.32	101.32	101.32	101.32	101.32	101.32	101.32	101.32	101.32
COMMISSIONED OFFICERS WITH OVER 4 YEARS ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE AS AN ENLISTED MEMBER OR WARRANT OFFICER															
O-3E	0.00	0.00	0.00	143.25	150.1	157.63	162.51	170.53	177.28	181.15	186.43	186.43	186.43	186.43	186.43
O-2E	0.00	0.00	0.00	125.81	128.40	132.49	139.38	144.72	148.69	148.69	148.69	148.69	148.69	148.69	148.69
O-1E	0.00	0.00	0.00	101.32	108.21	112.2	116.29	120.31	125.81	125.81	125.81	125.81	125.81	125.81	125.81
ENLISTED MEMBERS															
E-9	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	134.07	137.11	140.94	145.45	149.98	157.26	163.41	169.90	179.80
E-8	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	109.75	114.61	117.61	121.21	125.11	132.15	135.72	141.79	145.16	153.45
E-7	76.29	83.27	86.46	90.69	93.98	99.65	102.83	106.01	111.68	114.52	117.21	118.86	124.42	128.02	137.12
E-6	65.99	72.60	75.81	78.92	82.17	89.50	92.35	95.51	98.29	99.27	99.95	99.95	99.95	99.95	99.95
E-5	60.47	64.51	67.62	70.82	75.79	80.07	83.22	84.22	84.22	84.22	84.22	84.22	84.22	84.22	84.22
E-4	55.43	58.27	61.42	64.53	67.28	67.28	67.28	67.28	67.28	67.28	67.28	67.28	67.28	67.28	67.28
E-3	50.04	53.19	56.40	56.40	56.40	56.40	56.40	56.40	56.40	56.40	56.40	56.40	56.40	56.40	56.40
E-2	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58	47.58
E-1 >4	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45	42.45
E-1 <4	39.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

One 8-hour IDT equals one drill or two points. One 4-hour IDT equals half a drill or one point.

Briefs

Guard and Reserve Personnel Fact Sheets

The 2006 Guard and Reserve Personnel Fact Sheets are scheduled to be released no later than Jan. 15. Visit <http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/pa/factsheet.asp> for a printable copy.

Cat E and SGLI

Servicemembers in Category E who have elected to be covered by Servicemembers Group Life Insurance may have experienced problems trying to pay their premiums. Currently, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service is not accepting checks for SGLI premiums. However, Cat E members need not worry, they are still covered until they disenroll from the SGLI program.

If a Cat E member dies while performing duty, or while traveling to or from duty; they are covered by SGLI if enrolled in the program. The owed premiums are deducted directly out of the beneficiary's settlement payment. For more information, contact ARPC Entitlements branch at (800) 525-0102.

Travelers warned of Avian Flu threat

Overseas travelers are reminded of the risks involved in foreign travel caused by the threat of the Avian flu, an infectious disease in birds caused by an influenza virus strain. Although the current risk to Americans from the Asian bird flu outbreak is low, there is a risk to travelers. For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123012546>

TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Benefit extended

The TRICARE Reserve Family Demonstration Benefit has been extended through Oct. 31, 2007. The benefit was extended an additional two years to ensure continuity of care for family members of approximately 170,000 National Guard and Reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days in support of operations Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The demonstration waives the TRICARE annual deductible for family members who use TRICARE Extra or Standard; waives the pre-authorization requirement for non-emergency inpatient civilian care at civilian hospitals; and authorizes TRICARE to pay non-participating providers up to 115 percent of the TRICARE maximum allowable charge.

National Guard and Reserve members and family members with questions or in need of assistance may use the TRICARE Yellow Pages available at www.tricare.osd.mil/yellowpages to contact their TRICARE regional contractor. Up-to-date TRICARE information is also available on the TRICARE Web site at www.tricare.osd.mil/reserve.

Health program will help returning troops

Servicemembers returning from deployments will now participate in a post-deployment health reassessment program that all the services are instituting. The new program will assess the health -- both physical and mental -- of servicemembers from 90 to 120 days after they have redeployed. The new program is in addition to the routine post-deployment health screening all servicemembers returning to the states from a deployment

go through. The new reassessment program is designed to find servicemembers whose symptoms don't show up immediately and is being instituted this month.

Key elements of the program include outreach to servicemembers, education and training for servicemembers and their families, screening of servicemembers, assessment by medical professionals, evaluation and treatment and follow-up. The Air Force plan calls for Airmen to answer an online survey which the service will incorporate with the members' annual physicals.

For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123012800>

Survey shapes future family programs

New Defense Department surveys ask military spouses about their views as defense planners shape family programs to meet their needs and interests. A 30-minute survey was mailed last month.

Nearly 74,000 military spouses have been asked to participate in the surveys, one directed at active-duty families and one for National Guard and Reserve families. The survey group was selected at random to provide a cross section of all military families. The survey period runs through late January.

Survey responses are confidential. Responses will be instrumental in determining how DOD directs its resources to family programs in the future. For more information, read the Air Force Print News story at <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123013392>

Leadership Resources

Air Force Link
<http://www.af.mil>
Defense Link
<http://www.defenselink.mil/>
Air Reserve Personnel Center
<http://arpc.afrc.af.mil/>
First Sergeant Links
<http://www.firstsergeant.hq.af.mil/links.htm>
Air Force Crossroads
<http://www.afcrossroads.com/>
U.S. Government's Official Website
<http://www.firstgov.gov/>
Government Regulations
<http://www.regulations.gov/>
Office of Economic Adjustment
<http://www.oea.gov/oeaweb.nsf/Home?OpenForm>
Social Security Online
<http://www.ssa.gov/>
Department of Veterans Affairs
<http://www.va.gov>
Base Realignment and Closure 2005
<http://www.af.mil/brac>
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve
<http://www.esgr.org>

Worth Repeating

"I submit to you that if a man hasn't discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

-- Martin Luther King Jr.